



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
The Secretary of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20230

July 31, 2009

The Honorable F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr.  
Ranking Member  
Select Committee on Energy Independence  
and Global Warming  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Sensenbrenner:

Thank you for your letter regarding my recent trip to China and, specifically, my remarks before the American Chamber of Commerce in Shanghai.

Overall, my trip to China with Secretary of Energy Steven Chu was a successful one. I was pleased to hear from my counterparts in the Chinese Government that they share my views regarding the importance of cooperating on the development, production, and deployment of clean energy and energy efficiency technologies.

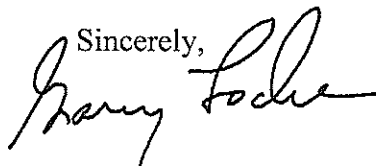
Throughout my trip, I repeatedly urged Chinese Government officials to work to reduce their country's carbon footprint. China's rapid economic growth has been accompanied by a huge increase in demand for energy and a dramatic jump in greenhouse gas emissions. In response to these challenges, China's leaders have instituted ambitious clean energy and environmental goals.

While speaking before the American Chamber of Commerce, however, I gave an inartful response to a question posed by a member of the audience that has garnered some press attention. I subsequently clarified that response, and that clarification has also been reported in the media.

My remarks were intended to express a concern I often hear from the business community: that the cost of reducing emissions in some countries not lead to increased emissions in other countries, because that would create an unlevel playing field.

As the voice for American business and industry in the Cabinet, I obviously want to ensure that our companies are competing on a level playing field—a concern that I believe we all share. There are multiple ways for us to achieve that goal. I look forward to working with Congress as we craft long-term solutions that address climate change and improve our domestic economic competitiveness.

If you have further concerns that you would like to discuss, please do not hesitate to contact me or April Boyd, Assistant Secretary for Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, at (202) 482-3663.

Sincerely,  
  
Gary Locke